

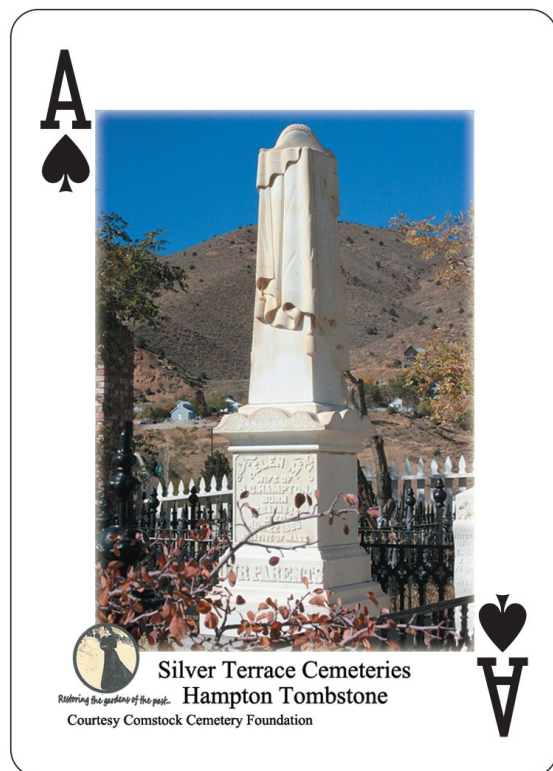
# Silver Terrace Cemeteries

## Hampton Tombstone

The Comstock Cemetery Foundation (CCF) supports the protection of the unique Comstock cemeteries for future generations. Countless visitors are charmed by the cemeteries' "sense of pastness" and patina created by 146 years of aging. The CCF preservation plan will maintain that patina while allowing for protective activities.

The cemeteries of the Comstock have a layered and storied past. In 1859, people who died on the Comstock were buried in any convenient hole. The first formal cemeteries were established in 1859 at Gold Hill, and in 1867, the Silver Terrace cemeteries were established in Virginia City. These early cemeteries served as the Comstock's first park-like areas used for relaxation and recreation.

The formal cemeteries were designed complexes that contained sections for fraternal and religious groups. The grave marker of John Clay and Helen Hampton is in the Masonic section-Silver Terrace cemeteries. The couple died on August 23, 1888. They were killed in a collision between the steam ships *Oceanic* and *City of Chester* in San Francisco Bay. It took many days to locate the body of John Clay, but eventually both bodies were sent back to Virginia City to be buried by the local undertaker J.A. Conboie. It was reported their funeral was the largest ever seen in Virginia City and consisted of 82 carriages. Their marble monument was placed on a Washoe granite base and reached to nearly 11 feet in height. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, their family home on B Street in Virginia City stands proudly as a contributing element to the National Historic Landmark.



For more information on the Comstock Cemetery Foundation visit:

<http://comstockcemetery.com/>

